

Dear Applicant:

This is in regard to your recent request for information on how to petition the Governor for restoration of rights for non-violent offenses. The granting of restoration of rights is solely at the **discretion of the Governor**; it is not guaranteed. If a petition for restoration of rights is denied, the petitioner has **no right of appeal**, but may reapply after a two-year period.

An individual convicted of a felony in Virginia has lost certain civil rights, such as the right to vote, to hold public office, and to serve on a jury. Before considering such an individual for a pardon, Governor Warner requires that these rights be restored.

In order to be eligible for the restoration of one's civil rights certain conditions must first be met. The petitioner must be free from release from probation for a minimum of three (3) years. In addition, all costs, fines, and restitution must be paid before applying. No application is considered if there is a DWI conviction within the past five (5) years. Petitions to the Governor for the restoration of one's civil rights must be made using the enclosed application for non-violent offenses. **You are not eligible for this process if you have been convicted of a violent; a drug distribution offense; or voting fraud.** A different application is available for these offenses.

The Restoration of Rights process takes at least *six months from the time an application is considered complete*. Petitions are reviewed in the order in which they are considered complete; therefore it will be in your best interest to make sure that all required documents are included with your petition.

Please direct all questions to:

Restoration of Rights Office  
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Post Office Box 2454  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2454  
(804) 692-2531